

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6144
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
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DEPT PASS AMBASSADOR KEATING

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS PFOR, XF, IS

SUBJ: RABIN RADIO INTERVIEW ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN RADIO INTERVIEW APRIL 2 PM RABIN
PLACED ONUS FOR SUSPENSION OF EGYPTIAN- ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS
ON EGYPT AND SAW NO NEED FOR ISRAEL TO MAKE ANY CHANGES IN
ITS NEGOTIATING POSITIONS. HE BELIEVED U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS
FIRM ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND PRESENT DIFFICULTIES. IF GENEVA
CONFERENCE IS TO SUCCEED, IT SHOULD BE CONDUCTED WITHIN
FRAMEWORK OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND AGREEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERVIEW WITH PM RABIN OVER
IDF BRACASTING STATION APRIL 2, BASED ON SUMMARY IN OFFIC-
CIAL PRESS BULLETIN AND JERUSALEM POST (FULL TEXT CARRIED
FBIS TEL AVIV 02 1455Z):

3. BEGIN TEXT: SUSPENSION OF ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS:
RABIN STRESSED THAT ISRAEL WENT OUT OF ITS WAY IN PROPOSING
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A FLEXIBLE POSITION TO EGYPT, EXPRESSED IN A VARIETY OF

PROPOSALS--SEPARATE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN PEACE TREATY; BROAD, INTERIM SETTLEMENT; AND MORE LIMITED, INTERIM SETTLEMENT. SUSPENSION OF TALKS WAS NOT ISRAELI DECISION. ALL THREE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY ISRAEL WERE REJECTED BY EGYPT. RABIN SAID THAT " THE FACT THAT EGYPT WOULD ON NO ACCOUNT ACCEPT THE ISRELI PROPOSALS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO BRING ABOUT A CHANGE IN THE ISRAELI POSITION."

4. POLICIES ON FURTHER STEPS:

RABIN NOTED THAT EGYPTIAN POLICY IS TO KEEP OPEN, AT LEAST AT THIS STAGE, THREE OPTIONS: WAR, INTERIM AGREEMENT, AND RESUMPTION OF GENEVA CONFERENCE. ISRAEL IS MAINTAINING HER POSITION ON PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE BY WAY OF AN OVERALL AGREEMENT OR AN INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT. ISRAEL MUST FIRST PRESENT DIRECTIONS IN WHICH IT IS PREPARED TO GO AND SEE WHAT RESPONSES ITS PROPOSALS EVOKE. HASTE, HE THOUGH, MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS EXPRESSION OF WEAKNESS.

5. PENING OF CANAL:

RABIN SAID THE OPENING OF CANAL WOULD BE " FIRST AND FOREMOST" IN INTEREST OF EGYPT BECAUSE OF ITS FINANCIAL NEEDS, AND THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO PRESENT OPENING OF CANAL AS GESTURE TOWARD ISRAEL IS MISTAKEN.

6. UNEF:

RABIN REGARDED EGYPT AS " BOUND TO MAINTAIN HER READINESS TO CONTINUE EXISTENCE OF THE UNEF," WHICH IS PART OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, AND " ANY ATTEMPT TO CANCEL IT, OR NOT TO EXTEND IT FOR THE ACCEPTED PERIOD OF TIME IS....A NEGATIVE INDICATION FOR THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

7. US-ISRAEL RELATIONS:

RABIN NOTED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN US AND ISRAEL IN THE PAST, AND HE BELIEVED THAT " THE BASIS OF FRIENDSHIP, UNDERSTANDING AND COMMON INTERESTS OF THE US AND ISRAEL REMAINS FIRM, AND WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO COME THROUGH THE PRESENT PERIOD AND THE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WHICH PERHAPS EXIST AT THIS TIME." IT WOULD BE A UNCLASSIFIED

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MISTAKE, SAID RABIN, TO DRAW ANY PARALLELS BETWEEN US ATTITUDES TOWARD SOUTH EAST ASIA AND ISRAEL. WITH RESPECT TO CONGRESS, HE SAID HE FOUND " IT DIFFICULT...TO ASSUME THAT CONGRESS WOULD WITHHOLD AID FROM ISRAEL. ON THE MEETING OF SENATOR MCGOVERN WITH ARAFAT, RABIN SAID HE DID NOT CONSIDER STAND OF ONE SENATOR " AS REFLECTING TRENDS IN SENATE ITSELF."

8. ADVANCE PREPARATION FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE:

RABIN DESCRIBED TWO LEVELS OF ADVANCE PREPARATIONS FOR A GENEVA
CONFERENCE IF IT IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
CONFERENCE SHOULD BE CONDUCTED INFRAMWORK OF BILATERAL
CONTACTS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EACH OF HER NEIGHBORS, AS
PROBLEMS WITH EACH ARE DIFFERENT. PEACE AGREEMENTS OR TREATIES
MUST BE BILATERAL, OTHERWISE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IS
MEANINGLESS. SECOND LEVEL INVOLVES NECESSITY FOR COORDINATING
POSITIONS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE BETWEEN US AND ISRAEL IN ORDER
TO COUNTER THE HOSTILE POSITION WHICH THE SOVIET UNION
WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TAKE. END TEXT.
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